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# Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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# 1. American Jewish Committee (Special; 1997)

## I. Introduction

**Aims of the organization**: Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) seeks to help build a more peaceful, humane and just world for all. AJC promotes human rights for all persons everywhere, the rights and freedoms of Jews worldwide, and works to eradicate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, including anti-Semitism. It fosters inter-group harmony and understanding among diverse religious, ethnic, racial and social groups internationally. AJC works to improve human relations, promote justice, and advocates for development and implementation of United Nations standards as the best means of advancing social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

**Significant changes in the organization**: (a) During the period under review, AJC expanded its substantive areas of concern by developing a major programme to focus on environmental sustainability, as well as adding new programme institutes on Africa and Latin America. It intensified this programme following an appeal from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 3 May 2007, in which he cited the longstanding contribution of AJC "to a shared mission of promoting human dignity", but expressed concern "that international efforts to combat climate change are falling short". The Secretary-General encouraged the organization to engage on this issue, citing the fact that AJC has an "important role to play across this agenda". Following that, AJC has called upon States to adopt new and comprehensive energy policies, with an expanded focus on alternative energy sources. Because leadership begins by example, AJC adopted a fuel-efficient vehicle bonus that is aimed at giving its own employees an incentive to purchase fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly vehicles. In an effort to encourage other urban-based non-governmental organizations, AJC has sought "green certification" for its national headquarters, and is calling for others to do likewise; (b) From 2005 to 2008, AJC established new partnerships with Jewish communities and organizations in Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Latvia and Romania, as well as with the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, the Communauté juive marocaine in Morocco, the Asociación Judia del Perú, the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa in Portugal, and the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities. Additionally, during this period, AJC established partnerships with the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students, the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress and the Federation of Latin American Jewish Students.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: AJC representatives have attended and monitored sessions, at United Nations Headquarters, New York, of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and, in Geneva, of the Human Rights Council and the Committee against Torture. AJC has been present at the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, and has sent representatives who have focused on the need to advance women's equality and universal education by repealing laws that discriminate against women, as set forth in the Beijing and Beijing plus Five concluding documents. Moreover, in August 2008, AJC convened a special event in New York promoting ratification by the

United States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that featured as a speaker a member of CEDAW and editor of *The Circle of Empowerment: Twenty-five years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*. Nine other CEDAW members attended, as did more than 100 women's rights activists and supporters of the treaty's ratification, and United Nations Secretariat staff members.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

**2005**: In May, AJC partnered with the United Nations Foundation to bring an international delegation of Jewish leaders, 50 persons from 24 countries, to United Nations Headquarters in New York for discussions with United Nations officials on issues of United Nations reform, genocide prevention, human rights and intolerance. They were received by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information and the Secretary-General. In August, participants in the AJC Goldman Fellows programme attended a special programme organized by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters on United Nations issues. AJC representatives also attended the proceedings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York, and have participated in other United Nations official seminars or meetings with delegates to the Committee. AJC has been an active participant in United Nations Holocaust Remembrance educational programmes aimed at instilling the memory of the tragic genocide in future generations as part of an effort to prevent recurrences of genocide. In addition to having its representatives attend these meetings in New York, AJC has published short articles about the value of these programmes.

AJC is a member of the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the United States; a representative of the AJC serves on the NGO Working Group on the Security Council, based in New York. Annually, AJC representatives meet with heads of State, foreign ministers, or other leaders from 50 to 60 Member States from all regions of the world in meetings organized at the time of their presentations at the General Assembly's general debate.

AJC contributed $10,000 to the work of the World Food Programme for activities in Africa.

**2006**: In May, Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressed AJC in Washington, D.C., and, while recalling that the AJC was present at the founding of the world body in San Francisco, affirmed that the AJC Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights continues to play a "vital part in the United Nations human rights work". He requested AJC to work to encourage the United States and other countries to seek membership in the new Human Rights Council, and the organization has done that through numerous communications that followed. He also encouraged AJC to intensify its work to prevent genocide. As a result, the Jacob Blaustein Institute has worked closely in the reporting period with the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The Institute organized several expert meetings with the Special Adviser in New York, as well as with his immediate predecessor, other mandate holders and experts to discuss this important issue and examine the normative underpinnings of the mandate.

**2007**: In March, the AJC Africa Institute convened a discussion to welcome United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Asha Rose Migiro to her new post, and she addressed the current development and education challenges facing Africa, with a

particular focus on identifying ways for AJC to help the United Nations to advance universal education, ensure environmental sustainability, eradicate extreme poverty, promote the equality of women, and assist in developing effective national institutions. Thereafter, AJC has worked to promote these matters through meetings and discussions among experts; for example, the Africa Institute convened a meeting in New York to discuss with the departing Special Representative of the Secretary-General policies and practices needed in Sierra Leone after the end of conflict to promote these same goals.

**2008**: (a) In October, an AJC representative participated in a seminar in Geneva on articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights convened by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); (b) In October, convened a discussion, at her request, with the Commissioner-General for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East during her visit to New York; (c) In March, AJC held a meeting in New York where NGOs discussed with the High Commissioner for Human Rights what lessons were learned from the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and how it could assist NGOs planning for the review conference. AJC had voiced support for the Secretary-General's proposal to reform the Commission on Human Rights and create the Human Rights Council. The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights organized a seminar on peer review procedures, bringing experts from the International Labour Organization, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to New York to discuss with delegates to the Third Committee of the General Assembly how such procedures can be both effective and fair to all States. It also organized a programme focused on the special procedures of the Commission and how they could be reformed and rationalized in a new Council; several United Nations human rights mandate holders participated in this event.

## 2. Association for Women's Rights in Development (General; 1997)

### I. Introduction

**Aims and purposes of the organization**: The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) has undergone a number of transformations in its 25-year history, both with respect to its own internal structure as well as the ways in which the organization works to advance the rights of women worldwide. The United Nations has always played a critical role in serving as a democratic space and body through which the rights of women are defended and secured. AWID has benefited greatly from having general consultative status, allowing the organization to engage in key events and spaces. AWID hopes to maintain its status in order to continue to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations more broadly. This report describes the organization's work from 2005 to 2008, highlighting organizational changes and illustrating how AWID has contributed to the work of the United Nations during this time period.

In 2005, AWID began an ambitious strategic planning process with staff, stakeholders and the Board of Directors to review its vision, mission and strategic objectives. The AWID 2006-2010 Strategic Plan was finalized at the beginning of

2006. This plan refined and refocused the organization, and included plans for expansion of staff and offices in the global South. The Strategic Plan builds upon the organization's acquired knowledge and unique positioning, and is a living document to be reviewed and adapted as needed. As part of this process, the mission, vision and goals of AWID have been adapted to reflect the changes in the context and knowledge acquired by the organization. The mission of AWID is: "To strengthen the voice, impact and influence of women's rights advocates, organizations and movements internationally to effectively advance the rights of women". AWID works to achieve this mission through four interrelated goals: (a) build knowledge and understanding of the forces, trends and institutions that are undermining women's rights and come up with appropriate strategies to address them; (b) create capacity-building resources and strategies for and with women's rights advocates, organizations and movements that will strengthen our overall impact; (c) form alliances between women of different ages, sectors, social movements, regions, issues and communities in order to build a stronger movement for women's rights; (d) influence international institutions and actors to strengthen their approaches (beyond commitments) to advance the rights of women worldwide.

The 2006-2010 Strategic Plan consolidated the organization's past themes, and resulted in six key strategic initiatives: women's rights information, the AWID Forum, challenging and resisting religious fundamentalism, where's the money for women's rights, building feminist movements and organizations, and feminist responses to HIV and AIDS. The Strategic Plan also includes two cross-cutting programmes: young feminist activism and membership. In 2007, a new Strategic Initiative was initiated, titled "Influencing development actors and practice for women's rights".

**Significant changes in the organization**: In 2006 the Executive Director stepped down and the organization planned a careful transition process in early 2007 so that the then Programme Manager could take over the Executive Direction. Under the new Director's guidance, AWID has continued to become more international and more diverse in its scope and influence. From 2005 to 2008, the membership of AWID became increasingly diverse, with significant increases especially in the Middle East/North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa regions. AWID attributes theses increases to outreach efforts in the regions that stemmed from hosting two major events: (a) "Feminist resource mobilization strategy meeting for women's rights organizations and movements in the Middle East/North Africa Region", co-convened in 2008 by AWID and the Global Fund for Women and held in Marrakesh, Morocco; and (b) the 2008 AWID Forum, "The power of movements" held in Cape Town, South Africa. In terms of fund-raising achievements, 2008 was a peak year for the organization as we managed relationships and secured grants with over 30 donors. AWID was proud and delighted that one of the grants was the largest multiannual grant received to date from the MDG3 Fund.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: Development Cooperation Forum, Economic and Social Council, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 2008. Several AWID staff participated.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: Several key events attended by AWID's Influencing

Development Actors and Practice for Women's Rights (IDeA) initiative are outlined below; however, this is not an exhaustive list. AWID staff participates in numerous conferences, forums and meetings in the arena of women's human rights. Some important events convened and attended by AWID representatives during the period 2005-2008 were: **select AWID events**: (a) AWID Tenth International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, How Does Change Happen? (Bangkok, October 2005); (b) Reflections on the international women's movement: 10 Years after Beijing (Washington, D.C., May 2005). AWID co-convened this intercultural dialogue on the status of women in a fast-changing world, and discussed the challenges presented by the new technological, economic, cultural and political realities; (c) Commission on the Status of Women (New York) February/March 2006. AWID co-organized the panel, "Where is the money for women's rights?"; (d) Money and movements (Querétaro, Mexico, November 2006). AWID convened this meeting to share information and analysis on the funding situation for women's rights, to provide a space for frank discussions on how feminists and women's rights activists need to redefine their relationships to money and funding, and to open up spaces for strategizing on how to mobilize more resources to support the work of women's organizations and movements; (e) AWID Eleventh International Forum: The Power of Movements (Cape Town, South Africa, November 2008). The Forum was an immense success with record-high registration of 1,900 participants from more than 140 countries worldwide.

**United Nations and other international events**: (a) Commission on the Status of Women (New York, February/March 2007). The AWID Executive Director spoke on two panels: "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" and "United Nations reform and gender architecture: where do we stand?"; (b) Development Forum, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Paris, May 2008). AWID made clear arguments against all conditional policies and the need to go beyond the current level of debate; (c) XVII International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, August 2008). AWID staff presented the session "Promises to actions: women, funding and HIV and AIDS"; (d) Commission on the Status of Women (New York, February/March 2008). The AWID Executive Director presented in the session "Key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women".

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**: From 2005 to 2008, the work of AWID was closely aligned with the mandate of the Millennium Development Goals: (a) women's rights information: in 2006, AWID brought its various information-producing activities under the guidance of a new Women's Rights Information initiative, which had a mandate to continue providing the breadth of information that AWID is known for, but, at the same time, to begin bringing some additional depth to key issues. The vision of the initiative supports many of the Millennium Development Goals, as it contributes to building knowledge and understanding of the forces that undermine women's human rights, including poverty, health concerns and lack of access to education. In July 2008, AWID launched its new website, awid.org, which provides streamlined access to information in English, Spanish and French, including thousands of articles on a wide range of women's human rights issues, in-depth analysis, and practical tools to support women's rights activism, and daily news and updates; (b) Influencing Development Actors and Practice for Women's Rights: the IDeA initiative, which is aligned with both goal 3 and goal 10 of the Millennium Development Goals, seeks

to (i) influence development actors, policies and practices for women's rights by contributing to advancing feminist understanding of the relationship between development and women's rights; and (ii) connect the theoretical debates on development and the need for alternative paradigms with concrete experiences, lessons learned and analysis from a women's rights perspective. Much of the work of this initiative in the reporting period was focused on preparing the organization for the OECD Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in September 2008. AWID engaged with other civil society organizations in this process, strengthening its partnership with Network on Gender Equality (Gendernet) and participating in key meetings.

AWID worked with key partners to advocate and mobilize for integration of gender equality and a women's rights approach into the aid effectiveness agenda in the following advocacy spaces: (a) co-organized with Women in Development Europe (WIDE) the first set of women's consultations, International Consultation of Women's Organizations and Networks and Aid Effectiveness (Ottawa, February 2008); (b) as members of the Advisory Group of Civil Society to the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, participated in several meetings and in drafting common papers, influencing the inclusion of a women's rights perspective in key documents produced for the process; (c) co-organized the Accra Women's Forum in partnership with Ghanaian women's rights organizations and other key allies, prior to the Civil Society Forum and the High Level Forum (August 2008); (d) mobilized women's groups from different regions and facilitated interlinking and alliance-building for the Women's Forum held in Accra one day prior to the High Level Forum.

## 3. International Justice Mission (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

**Aims of the organization**: International Justice Mission (IJM) is a United States-based human rights service organization with 14 overseas offices. The purpose of the organization is to work with local Governments to provide legal and rehabilitative assistance to victims of human rights abuses, and to aid in the prosecution of perpetrators of such abuses under national law. IJM has offices staffed principally by nationals of their own countries in India, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, Rwanda, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Guatemala.

**Significant changes in the organization**: The major change in the three-year period under review, 2005-2008, has been the development of a number of new field offices, including Kigali, Cebu City, the Philippines, Guatemala City, La Paz, and two offices in South Asia. A second major development in this period has been the establishment of two IJM "affiliate offices", in Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These offices, which are incorporated locally, are a source of public education about international justice issues in their respective countries. A third development at IJM has been increasing our support for local Governments to build sustainable, effective public justice systems. Activities to this end include providing training to local police forces in a number of countries. IJM also provides considerable assistance to other components of public judicial

systems, including prosecutors. In Guatemala, for example, the IJM five-member, all-Guatemalan team investigates and prosecutes sexual violence against children. In 2008, fully half of all convictions in Guatemala for this crime were in IJM cases. To help build sustainability, IJM provides significant assistance to Guatemalan authorities. For example, IJM trained Guatemalan State medical authorities in proper procedures for forensic examination of child rape victims. This increased emphasis on engaging with the public justice system can be seen in the revised IJM mission statement, which now reads: "The mission of International Justice Mission is to protect people from violent forces of injustice by securing rescue and restoration for victims and ensuring public justice systems work for the poor". The previous mission statement emphasized direct charitable services: "International Justice Mission is a Christian agency, led by human rights professionals, that helps people overseas suffering injustice and oppression who cannot rely on local authorities for relief. The agency documents and monitors conditions of abuse and oppression, educates the church and public about the abuses, and mobilizes intervention on behalf of the victims." The new mission statement was adopted in 2008.

**Changes in the IJM Constitution**: IJM board policies have been amended to reflect the development of affiliate offices and the revised mandate of the organization.

**Financial growth**: IJM has continued its healthy financial growth throughout the period 2005-2008. In 2005 IJM brought in $10.9 million in revenue and in 2008 that number had grown to $21.2 million.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: IJM did not attend many major conferences or other events sponsored by the Council or its subsidiary bodies because we have been concentrating our efforts in providing services for the poor, and limit attendance to those meetings in countries where we are located and to those explicitly related to our work, as has been the case of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and human trafficking.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: the particular contribution of IJM to the United Nations has been to aid Governments in bringing their administration of national law closer to United Nations human rights standards in the areas of sexual violence, trafficking, slavery, illegal imprisonment and women's right to inheritance. This work has not only improved the lives of our clients, but has built capacity among local Governments, which is having a positive impact in the community at large. The work of IJM furthers the United Nations development goals by assisting victims of violations of internationally recognized human rights abuses and by helping build the rule of law in some of the world's poorest countries. In 2008, IJM South Asia collaborated extensively with UNICEF on forced labour training courses. In 2007, IJM provided UNODC with legal briefs and memos for their standard operating procedures for sex-trafficking cases and arranged a consultation conference on rescue, restoration and repatriation with non-governmental organizations and UNODC. Also in 2007, the director of IJM South Asia attended by invitation the UNODC South Asia Regional Conference on Human Trafficking in New Delhi.

From 2004 to 2006 United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking and UNICEF headed up a coalition of police training organizations in Cambodia in which IJM was a participant. In 2006, the IJM Regional Director for South-East Asia spoke at a UNICEF-sponsored conference on child-friendly courts and victim-witness preparation in Cambodia. The IJM Cambodia Field Office Director attended the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking process meeting in Vientiane. Both the Cambodian Field Office Director and the Cebu Field Office Director were speakers at the workshop on raids organized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking.

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.** Protection of the poor through the rule of law is not one of the named Millennium Development Goals, but our work in this area is nonetheless closely associated with several of the goals. For example, IJM collaboration with the Governments in South Asia on the identification, release and rehabilitation of forced labourers has important implications for goal 2 regarding education. In the three-year period under review, the IJM aftercare programmes in South Asia provided assistance to 380 children of rescued forced labourers. Of those children, 198 were placed in schools by the IJM team, in cooperation with the authorities. **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.** Similarly, IJM legal services in sub-Saharan Africa are closely related to the goal on HIV/AIDS. IJM provides legal services to widows and orphans, many of whom lost family members to HIV/AIDS. IJM clients in Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia are widows and orphans whose property has been seized illegally. In addition to re-securing their property and possessions, IJM aftercare programmes for its clients in Africa include referrals to obtain health services, including HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. In the period 2005-2008, IJM provided such assistance to 489 clients.

## 4. Mata Amritanandamayi Math (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

**The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action**: Mata Amritanandamayi Math (M.A. Math) was formed in 1988 as a public charitable trust and NGO headquartered in Kollam, Kerala, India. It operates many charitable institutions which serve the most disadvantaged sections of society by providing development assistance, economic aid, medical aid and educational facilities, through programmes in education, the environment, health care, indigenous rights, gender equality, poverty eradication, relief work, and a vast array of other charitable efforts. In 2008 M.A. Math was granted accreditation with the United Nations Department of Public Information. During the 2005-2008 period, the first quadrennial review period, there were no substantial changes which had a significant impact in the organization's vision and/or functions in terms of its orientation, its programme, or the scope of its work.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: In the period under survey, the M.A. Math steadily broadened and deepened its

relationship with the United Nations, taking part in world conferences and seminars and attending meetings of United Nations bodies concerned with a broad range of issues, including human rights, the status of women, the environment, children and sustainable development. It furnished information, participated in discussions and submitted statements on most of these subjects: (a) Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2008, United Nations Headquarters, New York: sponsored the Farmers Relief Project, which focused educational and training efforts on farmers and families committing suicide. The Commission recognized this ongoing work as an official Commission Secretariat Partnership for Sustainable Development. A paper and a PowerPoint served as the basis for a panel discussion at the Partnership Fair. An information booth with printed materials was featured. As the session progressed major groups lobbied, and the issue of international farmer suicide was brought to the floor on two consecutive days and was included in the closing statement of the NGO Major Group; (b) Department of Public Information NGO events: United Nations Headquarters, New York, 2005-2008, attended weekly briefings, as well as the annual conferences in 2005, 2006 and 2008. Additionally, in 2008 representatives served on the planning and outreach committees for the conference at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Paris, September).

**Examples of additional United Nations attendance**: United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) September 2005, attended events celebrating International Day of Peace; (b) June 2005, Conference on Interfaith Cooperation For Peace; (c) April 2008, Annual Ministerial Review/NGO Forum, "best practices" documentation submitted on the Green Shores project in which native trees were planted along the tsunami-ravaged coastline to prevent further coastal erosion.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: There are no specific United Nations partnerships; however, M.A. Math is actively pursuing collaborations.

**Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals**: humanitarian disaster relief: floods, Mumbai, India, 2005 — medical care for 50,000 survivors and $1 million worth of medicines, food, kitchenware, bedding, and clothing. Earthquake, Kashmir, 2005 — volunteer relief team delivered food, blankets and supplies. Floods in Gujarat, India, 2006 — extensive medical care and supplies. Floods in Bihar, India, 2008 — US$ 465,000 pledged, specialized and general medical care for 500 daily, 1,500 housed in temporary housing. **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.** Special emphasis on addressing the needs of India's rural poor, tribal populations and impoverished persons through youth and adult education, addiction recovery campaigns, literacy programmes, on-site training in basic hygiene and other opportunities. Target 1: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. Living pensions for 100,000 widows, the physically and mentally challenged. Target 2: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. The Amrita Self-reliance Employment and Empowerment Programme in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, India, helped unemployed and deprived people start their own small businesses, including vocational training for 5,000 self-help groups of women from impoverished agricultural families. Within one year of its inauguration in September 2007, 3,000 Amrita self-help groups were formed. More than 1,500 groups received loans. The Kerala Industrial Training Centre provided training for 500 teenagers in 11 trades. In 2005 students gained first rank in the All-India Trade Test in two

vocations. Target 3: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Free meals provided for more than 2 million people each year in India. **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.** Initiated a national network of over 50 primary schools throughout India. With the goal of 100,000, M.A. Math provided scholarships to 30,000 children of farmers living below the poverty line from the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. Many of the beneficiaries were children who lost one or both parents to suicide. The children (ages 10-15) received a monthly stipend until they completed their education. ASHIS is one of the few schools in Kerala that scientifically teaches hearing-impaired children to speak. More than 100 children attended the boarding school. The children have a 100 per cent pass rate in the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Exam. Amrita Niketan Orphanage, Kerala for over 600 girls and boys at any one time. Half of the orphans are from poor tribal communities. The children attend school next to the orphanage. More than 35 per cent of them pursue higher education, all of which is fully sponsored by M.A. Math. Non-formal primary education centres also exist in rural villages, allowing the tribal children in 10 villages to attend school. **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.** M.A. Math took care to ensure that women were supported and empowered through equal education and training opportunities, pension programmes and housing efforts. Many women were beneficiaries of the Free Housing Projects in the slums. Additionally, M.A. Math has a hostel providing secure housing for women. Marriage ceremonies: for decades, M.A. Math sponsored no-cost, dowry-free marriages for impoverished couples, providing all items necessary for a traditional ceremony. Women (and men) were given free legal advice through a network of volunteer lawyers. **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality.** The Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), a not-for-profit 1,300-bed hospital operated by M.A. Math, offered an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department to serve the needs of high-risk mothers and babies. The neonatal intensive care unit at AIMS hospital is the only clinic in south India focused on improving the chances of premature babies surviving. The experts have a remarkable track record of keeping premature babies weighing no more than 1 1/2 pounds alive — an 80 per cent survival rate. This 10-bed unit helped 400-500 births a year. Through AIMS medical camps, significant childhood immunization programmes were implemented in rural areas. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health.** The Amrita College of Medicine taught basic midwifery and first aid skills to qualified laypeople and tribal persons who then took those skills back to their communities. In the tribal areas, women were taught family planning skills. Some mothers who lost children in the tsunami had undergone tubal ligation as a form of permanent contraception. M.A. Math offered such women the opportunity to reverse their sterilization surgeries. Six women successfully underwent the procedure at AIMS Hospital. M.A. Math covered all the expenses. **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.** From 2005 to 2008, AIMS and all health-care institutions operated by M.A. Math treated more than 1 million patients. The AIDS Care Centre in Kerala provided residential care and hospice services to HIV/AIDS-infected persons. The AIMS Infectious Disease Department offered treatment for a variety of infectious diseases. The Developing Prostitute Upliftment programme focused on HIV prevention for women and girls who were victims of commercial sex trafficking. AIMS Community Services: health awareness and medical camps were conducted among tribals and the suburbs of Kerala with the help of telemedicine, vans, free medical check-ups and supply of medicines, and trained hundreds of tribal villagers as health-care workers. Fully

equipped ambulances for remote areas. Special outreach projects, such as diabetes prevention, ayurveda clinic, hospital and research centre. **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.** Environmentally sustainable practices are standard in all of M.A. Math's buildings and institutions. Target 1: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources: free legal advice to 1,000 volunteer lawyers in India working on environmental and human rights issues. Target 2: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss: Amrita Horticulture — through Amrita University and sponsored by a grant from the Government of India, several plantations of herbs that will remove environmental toxicities. Included are three medicinal plant reserves, high-density farming, a plant nursery, and eight satellite-aided resource centres. The project, covering more than 10 acres (4.8 hectares), is aimed at conserving coastal, midland and forest ecosystems. An ongoing national reforestation campaign, in association with the Forest Department of Kerala, planted 400,000 native trees in India. GreenFriends — ecological activities and awareness programmes throughout the world. Target 3: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water: in May 2007, M.A. Math gave Rs 33 lakhs (approx. US$ 85,000) to sponsor the provision of clean water to 7,100 families living below the poverty line in Chavara and Panmana Panchayats, Kollam District, Kerala. At AIMS Hospital, all water is circulated and reclaimed. Target 4: Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020. Home construction for homeless and slum dwellers: completion of 30,500 homes towards a goal of 125,000, including utilities, running water, sewage, schools, stores, etc.

## 5. Peace Worldwide (Special; 2005)

### I. Introduction

**Aims of the organization**: Peace Worldwide's aims are to use education to create consciousness of rights and liabilities among individuals; to take action in preventing human rights violations and to provide aid and assistance, including legal aid, to victims of human rights abuses; to investigate reported and unreported cases and allegations of human rights; to provide basic necessities of life such as drinking water, medical relief and dowries to poor and helpless girls; to address drainage and other rural development schemes; to help keep the environment free from pollution and to work for sustainable development; to educate and create consciousness among youth and women against drugs, narcotics and HIV/AIDS; to cooperate with national and international organizations, groups and individuals engaged in promoting human rights and to participate in meetings and conferences on human rights at home and abroad; and to abolish the blasphemy law in Pakistan.

### II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

**Participation in Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**: In 2008 Peace Worldwide was not able to attend many conferences because its staff was mostly engaged in a church-demolishing case with the Human Rights Ministry of Pakistan.

Peace Worldwide previously attended meetings at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) General Assembly civil society hearings in June 2005; (b) Department of Economic and Social Affairs Development Forum, May 2006; (c) General Assembly information hearing with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sectors, June 2005; (d) United Nations Forum on Forests, sixth session, February 2006; (e) Commission for Sustainable Development, fourteenth session, May 2006; (f) eighth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, August 2006; (g) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, and fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February/March 2007; (h) fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, April/May 2007.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**: Peace Worldwide worked on various issues related to human rights and minority rights in Pakistan. As an organization with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Peace Worldwide shared information and reported on different cases to entities such as the United Nations, the State Department of the United States of America and the European Union. For example:

**2005**: (a) in Taxila, Punjab Province, Pakistan, in a town where Muslims and Christians were living, some fundamentalists built a wall to divide the town and separate the Christians from Muslims. Peace Worldwide introduced interfaith harmony with the help of some Christian and Muslim scholars and demolished the said wall; (b) a Christian from a slum area was arrested without the registration of any case by the Islamabad police and was tortured to death. A team of Peace Worldwide was sent to the police station where the man died and pressured the officers to lodge the First Information Report against the policemen responsible and they were arrested.

**2006**: (a) in May, a South African prisoner was involved in a drug crime. His jail record was lost, and Peace Worldwide pressured the jail authority to provide his record and it was found. According to the record, his punishment was completed before two years. Peace Worldwide provided him with legal aid and arrangement of an airline ticket with the help of the South African Embassy in Islamabad. Now he is in his native country and has repented from drugs; (b) in June, in Adiala prison, Rawalpindi, the jail authorities raided room 3 and took away three prisoners to a secluded place within the facility. There these three prisoners were beaten viciously to a point that one of the prisoner's legs was broken. After a thorough beating these prisoners were denied medical treatment and were instead locked up in solitary confinement. Another prisoner (suffering from hepatitis B) too was beaten after he came back from a court hearing. His beating was prompted by his boldness in highlighting the sordid behaviour of jail authorities. The jail authorities confiscated bed linen, quilts and blankets, forcing prisoners to sleep on the bare floor. Peace Worldwide took immediate action and visited the said jail. With the help of the concerned authority the victims were provided with medical care, quilts and blankets; (c) in April, an old man's daughter was killed by a well-known gang of murderers and police were too afraid to lodge the First Information Report against that gang. Peace Worldwide took notice of that issue and pressured the authority to lodge a First Information Report against them. We provided legal aid for that girl; (d) a man was kidnapped by some extremists and was taken to the northern areas of Pakistan. Peace Worldwide contacted high officials of the Government and the

kidnappers were arrested. The kidnapped man was retrieved and he is living with his family in his home; (e) a nine-year-old girl was raped by a man who belongs to a rich and powerful family and police were too afraid to lodge a First Information Report against him. We contacted higher authorities and pressured the police to lodge a First Information Report against him, and the girl and her family were provided shelter and security by Peace Worldwide.

Peace Worldwide has served in Adiala jail, Rawalpindi, for many years and in 2007-2008 established a church in Adiala jail for Christians, and distributed warm clothes, shoes, socks and sweets in jail on every Christmas and Easter and distributed gifts on both Eid festival days of Muslims to all prisoners and distributed books and toys to children imprisoned with their mothers.

**2007**: (a) we feel the lack of religious freedom in Pakistan and arranged a discussion group with the Government and Muslim scholars. Now the Government has allotted a church plot for slum area residents; (b) in September a Christian in Faisalabad was arrested on false blasphemy charges. He and his family were beaten and his life was in danger. His family was provided with shelter by Peace Worldwide and the authorities were alerted to undertake a proper investigation and assure the safety of the victim; (c) in June, a slum in sector G-8 of Islamabad was about to be demolished by the Capital Development Authority. Peace Worldwide took immediate action and stopped the destruction of the slum. High officials of Government were contacted and regularized the slum; (d) in May, an old man's daughter was kidnapped and was forced to marry the kidnapper. Peace Worldwide took action and with the help of the police the girl was retrieved and the kidnappers were punished according to the law. We provided legal aid and shelter for that girl.

**2008**: (a) in August, a false blasphemy case was registered against a Christian couple. Islamists tried to kill the victims. Peace Worldwide discussed the matter in the Human Rights Ministry of Pakistan. The case was solved in January 2009 by the victims taking an oath on the Bible and now they are living a normal life; (b) also in August, a church in Chak Shehzad was demolished by the Capital Development Authority. Peace Worldwide contacted high officials of the Government of Pakistan and the church was rebuilt and an interfaith harmony conference was held at the site.

**Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**: Peace Worldwide contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan: **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.** Target 1: Halve the proportion of people who are suffering from hunger and extreme poverty. Actions: (a) 98,567 children were fed and given nutritional care; (b) 1,000 benefited from distribution of flour to the slums and poor; (c) 1,582 benefited from free gas cylinders provided to slum areas; (d) 77,745 benefited when free clothes and shoes were distributed to the poor; (e) distributed free wheelchairs to 953 poor handicapped persons. **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.** Target 1: To ensure that every child completes a full course of primary education. Actions: (a) distributed free books to 2,785 children; (b) 1,283 teachers were trained; (c) 425 schools renovated; (d) 6,970 benefited when trained teachers were sent to the slums; (e) 15,650 benefited from donated books sent to different schools; (f) 10,458 benefited from donated books that were sent to prison children; (g) 45 primary schools were established in slums. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health.** Actions: (a) 11,595 trained lady health visitors sent to slums; (b) 184 seminars arranged on maternal health, care and personal hygiene; (c) 342

small health centres were established. **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.** Target 3: Halve the proportion of people without safe water and basic sanitation. Actions: (a) implementation of 1,974 water filters in schools and slums; (b) 30,124 removals of waste materials and garbage from slums; (c) 1,465 filled pits of dirty water in slums; (d) 42,566 people made aware of diseases caused by dirt and waste materials; (e) 3,666 pieces of equipment provided for sanitation workers.

**Activities in support of global principles**: Several peace rallies and seminars were arranged by Peace Worldwide: (a) March 2007, in which thousands of people and members of Peace Worldwide participated; (b) a seminar for youth to create awareness about HIV/AIDS on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2008. Youths from different areas of Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Wah and Taxila participated and many members of Peace Worldwide were present; (c) a 20-day human rights programme in December 2008 in connection with Human Rights Day (observed on 10 December); (d) peace rally on 14 December 2008 in which the Minister of Human Rights of Pakistan and the Country Director of Peace Worldwide were present and gave speeches to thousands of people; (e) seminar in connection with Human Rights Day in which the Minister of Human Rights of Pakistan was a chief guest, and all problems of human rights that Pakistanis face were discussed. People from different aspects of life discussed and shared their problems with Peace Worldwide and the Minister; (f) many meetings were arranged on Human Rights Day when the Ministry of Human Rights and the Country Director of Peace Worldwide exchanged some points about human rights and their violation in different areas of the world; (g) participated in a seminar that was arranged by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan on education and religious freedom and discussed/raised issues about religious freedom in Pakistan; (h) Peace Worldwide suggested that all books of primary education should be given to the poor students free of cost.

## 6. Philippine Human Rights Information Center (Special; 2001)

### I. Introduction

The Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PHILRIGHTS) is a research and information institute of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA). Its primary goals are to raise the knowledge and understanding of PAHRA member organizations and the general public on human rights issues; enhance the skills of human rights NGOs and grass-roots communities on human rights monitoring and documentation; and disseminate human rights information and tools to human rights NGOs and grass-roots communities. These goals are achieved through the organization's institutional programmes, namely: Human Rights Research, Human Rights Education and Training, Human Rights Information, and Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation, a new programme set up in 2008 in the light of the institution's decision to build its niche in the monitoring and documentation of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, specifically the rights to food, education, health, housing and work. The PhilRights' Charter was amended during the Ninth PAHRA Congress in September 2008. The amendments made were on the composition of the PhilRights Board of Trustees

which was reduced from 12 to 9 members because of the difficulty in establishing a quorum, and the representation of the nine members.

The projects and activities of PhilRights have likewise expanded during the reporting period. Among its new projects and involvements are the following: (a) **children's involvement in armed conflict, 2003-2008**: (i) completed national research on the phenomenon of child soldiers in the Philippines and released the major findings of the research with the publication of a book, *Deadly Playgrounds: The Phenomenon of Child Soldiers in the Philippines* in 2005; (ii) conducted a three-year project (2006-2008) titled "Addressing the child soldiers phenomenon by enhancing the capabilities of selected local government units", as a follow-up to the national study on child soldiers. The project involved capability-building activities of community stakeholders, e.g. local Government officials, parents, teachers, religious leaders and children, in the form of education and training on human and children's rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and child-rights programming in two conflict areas in Mindanao, i.e. Aleosan, North Cobatabato and Munai, Lanao del Norte; (b) **Enhancing resiliency and strengthening participation among children in conflict areas in Mindanao** (2008-2009) is a project addressing the psychosocial needs of children affected by armed conflict in Mindanao through the holding of children's camps in two project areas, namely, Aleosan, North Cotabato and Munai, Lanao del Norte. The project complemented the project on children's involvement in armed conflict supported by Bread for the World; (c) **monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in mining communities, 2006-2010**: (i) completed a project titled "Raising capabilities of stakeholders in mining communities in monitoring and documenting human rights violations" (2006), which involved education and training on human rights concepts, principles, the rights-based approach, and human rights monitoring and documentation of indigenous peoples' organizations and other NGOs affected by large-scale mining activities. The project was implemented in two sites, namely Mindoro Oriental and Nueva Vizcaya; (ii) "Human rights advocacy, monitoring and documentation towards compliance with human rights State obligations in mining communities" (2008-2010) is a three-year project involving the training of field documentors from indigenous peoples' organizations on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in communities affected by large-scale mining activities and the setting-up of *bantay karapatan* teams (rights watch teams) from among the field documentors trained; (d) **"Monitoring and documentation of economic, social and cultural rights in the Philippines (2008-2009)"** is a research project aimed at establishing baseline data on the state of economic, social and cultural rights in an urban and rural community, particularly the rights to food, education, health, housing and work; (e) **"Integrating human rights and peace in secondary education towards strengthening Muslim, Christian and *Lumad* relations in Mindanao, 2008-2010"** is a 20-month project involving the training of teachers in public high schools in North Cobatabo and Maguindanao on the integration of peace and human rights into the school curriculum. The project is a replication and expansion of a similar project conducted in 2006.

## II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(a) instrumental in the finalization and submission of the Philippine NGO Network report on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1995-present to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social

and Cultural Rights in Geneva, in time for the deliberations of the Philippine State party report on the Covenant in November 2008. Its representative, Bernardo Larin, presented the summary and the recommendations of the NGO report to eight members of the Committee; (b) contributed to the preparation and finalization of the NGO alternative report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families titled "Philippine migrants rights groups' written replies to the list of issues relating to the consideration of the initial report of the Philippines", submitted to the Committee; (c) represented in the UNICEF Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting in the Philippines and participated and provided information on the NGO alternative report on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to the Committee in February 2008; (d) the PhilRights Executive Director participated in and contributed to several United Nations-sponsored activities such as the *Asian stakeholders regional consultation* organized by the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises, Bangkok, June 2006; and the Dag Hammarskjöld Centenary Forum on the 2005 Millennium Plus Five Summit Agenda of the United Nations, sponsored by the United Nations Country Team in September 2005 in Makati City, the Philippines.